

# Kentucky Irish American.

DEVOTED TO THE MORAL AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT OF ALL IRISH AMERICANS.

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WILLIAM M. HIGGINS, MANAGER.

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## TO OUR PATRONS.

Hereafter this paper will be issued so that it will reach all our readers on Saturday. We started off on the Fourth of July just to cheer up our patriotic Irish-American friends, but Saturday will be the regular publication day. To begin with, everything had to be done in a hurry, and it is hoped to make improvements in all departments.

We intend to slight nobody. There are a large number of business men in Louisville and vicinity who will want to advertise with us. Some of these have been called upon, and they were not at home. We will call on these this week. This paper will be a valuable advertising medium for all who use its columns. Louisville is a good field for the publication of a newspaper of the character we intend to make this one. It is up-hill work, many people tell us, but we feel much more than encouraged. We are delighted with the outlook. Friends have offered us great encouragement, and we are confident the undertaking can be made a successful business enterprise as well as a pleasure to our readers.

Our friends will oblige us by sending in advertisements and subscriptions. Already several have done so without asking, and we appreciate this very much.

## THE IRISH IN KENTUCKY.

The Irishman is no stranger in Kentucky. Before George Rogers Clark came to Louisville in 1777 there were Irishmen here, and with Clark were many Irish soldiers, notably Col. George Croghan. A list of the private soldiers who fought under Clark, which may be seen at the Polytechnic Society Library, discloses the fact that more than half were of Irish ancestry.

The first printing office established in Kentucky was by an Irishman, Matthew Lyon, and he was a son of Erin of whom the race may feel proud. Born in the County Wicklow in 1746, he came to this country at the age of thirteen. Having no money to pay his passage, he was bound out to a farmer in Connecticut, and, after paying his debts, went to Vermont, where he established a Democratic paper. After distinguishing himself as a member of the "Green Mountain

Boys" he came to Kentucky, and was sent to Congress from 1803 to 1811, after having first served in the Legislature two terms. He brought over the mountains with him the first type used in any printing office in this State, and therefore can be counted as the first man to do something for education. In Matthew Lyon's time he was not known as a Scotch-Irishman. That type had not been discovered in those days. Plain Irish was good enough for him, and he loved to be known as an Irishman without any misleading prefix.

From Matthew Lyon, and Col. George Croghan, the two prominent Irishmen of Kentucky, and, we hope, will continue to do so.

That there are renegade Irishmen goes without saying, but it can be truthfully said to-day, as it was in the days of old, when an Irishman is true, he is the delight of his neighbors and the valued friend of those who repose confidence in him.

The Irishmen in Louisville who have been trusted with official positions have never defaulted that we are aware of. As a rule they make intelligent and capable officers. The same is true of every other relation in which they are placed, whether as business men or laborers.

It has been said that the Irish are not clannish and will not support a newspaper devoted to their interests like the German. We do not believe this. We admit the race is not given to combining like some others, but we are willing to risk them in giving their support to a newspaper which will speak in their behalf. It will be the policy of this paper to speak for the Irish interests in Louisville and Kentucky. We do not mean by this that they should be advanced to the exclusion of others, but shall maintain that they have their just dues in public and private life. This will not be advocated on religious or political lines, but on broader principles. In Ireland the Jew has lived for centuries, and has never been persecuted. True Irishmen do not quarrel about religious differences, and where this has been done it has been disastrous.

We shall attempt to be as broad-minded in conducting this journal as the most liberal could desire, and certainly no man will be offended about what is said in regard to religious affairs. We shall go on the principle that "the truth will make you free," and we propose to stick to that.

## THE IRISH AND THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

The Fourth of July is a day which gives joy to every Irish-American, for on this day 122 years ago the Declaration of American Independence was proclaimed. Fifteen out of the forty-five signers were Irishmen. The Declaration itself is in the handwriting of an Irishman—Charles Thompson, Secretary of Congress. It was first printed by Capt. Thomas Dunlop, an Irishman, who published the first newspaper in America. The Declaration was first read to the people by another Irishman, Capt. John Nixon. We read of, and glory in, the valor of our soldiers at Bunker

Hill, which is named after Bunker Hill, just outside of Belfast. A company, composed of Irishmen, was the first to proclaim at Mecklenburg, North Carolina, that Americans were a free and independent people. These are a few reasons why Irishmen can well join in the patriotic celebration of the Glorious Fourth. The Irish in this country from Revolutionary times have shown themselves to be the bravest people who ever lived, whose loyalty and devotion to the hope of free government no tyrant can ever crush. The Shamrock and the Star and Stripes have a place side by side. Where is the battlefield in this country that has not been won by Irish courage and baptism of Irish blood, and has not been a country been strengthened by Irish brains and its weakness increased by Irish brains? The Irish laborers have built the roads and the canals, the bridges, but its educated men have led in the halls of Congress and on the field of battle. As we are now in the midst of war it seems more fitting today to pay a little attention to the Irish in war than to those who have been leaders in civil life in America. In the Continental Army thirty-nine general officers were Irishmen, and ten of them were Major Generals. Gen. John Stark, who led off with the Green Mountain Boys, of Vermont, was an Irishman, and his army was largely recruited from the Irishmen of Londonderry, Vermont. Gen. John Sullivan, Washington's Chief of Staff, was an Irishman.

In the navy Commodore Oliver Haggard Perry was of Irish descent, his mother having been born in Newry. Thomas McDonough, the hero of our greatest victory on the lakes, was an Irishman. Charles Stewart, the grandfather of Parnell, was another. Admiral Stephen C. Rowan ("Paddy" Rowan) was born in Dublin. Admiral George C. Meade was another. In the Federal army of Irish descent or nativity were Gen. George Gordon Meade, Philip H. Sheridan, Martin F. McMahon, Michael Crocoran, John P. McCown, Eugene A. Carr, George F. McGinness, E. Kirby Smith, William Joyce Sewell, Thos. Francis Meagher, James R. O'Brien, Anson G. McCook, James Shields, B. F. Tracy, John J. Coppinger, Col. James A. Mulligan and many others.

On the Confederate side were Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, Leonidas Polk, John S. Preston, Fagan McAllister, Jubal A. Early, Thomas Welsh, Gen. William Mahone, Dr. Theodore Dagan and Col. A. M. Waddell, descended from the colonial Governor, James Moore Waddell. The latter was long a resident of Louisville, dying here only a short time ago.

We might go on and give hundreds of other names that have added luster to American arms in our own and foreign countries, like, for instance, our Irish-American President, James K. Polk, who had Mexico thrashed before breakfast.

It is estimated that there are 75,000,000 people now in these United States. Statistics show that 6,000,000 people have come to this country from Ireland, making this nationality have 29 per cent. of the total population by birth or descent. This would make the total Irish-American population 21,750,000. Up to 1850 the Irish constituted 48 per cent. of the European immigrants, and the estimate made is not giving the Irish more than their due.

All of those 21,000,000 have reason to feel glad when the Fourth of July comes around, for their forefathers shed their blood that the immortal words should be proclaimed.

As it was in the Revolution, in the war of 1812 and subsequently, so it

is today. The first American officer killed on Cuban soil, Sergt. Maj. Henry Goode, was an Irish-American, born in Cork. Those with him were Privates Thomas J. Burke, Joseph Martin, Patrick Costello and Joseph Roxbury, all of Irish descent of birth. No battle or skirmish can happen without Irish figuring in it. And, as the poet said of the blowing up of the Maine, "We're all in that dead man's shirt, by cripe—Kelly and Burke and Sheehy."

## THE GERMAN-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

It is time to see the Courier, Times and other papers in steering clear of the pro-German-American alliance. Nations do not take steps backward. There is no danger of the United States making an alliance with her natural enemy. We can fight this war without any assistance from England. The party that favors an alliance of this kind would be swept from the face of the earth. The English Government seeks an alliance with us now because she is in trouble, not because she loves us. The moment any statesman in this country advocates such a suicidal policy that moment will he dig his political grave. The German-American citizens will not stand it. They are as much opposed to it as the Irish. This is not an Anglo-Saxon country. We are a nation made up of Celts, Germans, French, and anything but English. The emigration statistics show this. If it was to the advantage of the English Government to fight us now it would do so. Russia and France have been our allies for a long time, and we are not going to snub them now. "No entangling alliances" was a good enough motto for Washington, and it is a good enough one for the present generation.

## THE SCOTCH-IRISH.

Although there is "no such thing" as a Scotch Irishman there is a society bearing this name in Louisville. Whenever a man born in Ireland does anything great he is immediately set down as a Scotch-Irishman. During the revolutionary period the Scotch, with the exception of Paul Jones, did nothing at all in behalf of the independence of this country, and if they were ever heard of in the war of 1812, or in any of the Indian wars, we are not aware of it. The other day John D. Taggart died in this city. Some of the papers referred to him as a Scotch-Irishman. The fact is his ancestors lived Ireland for centuries. There was no element of Scotch about him, except that he was thrifty and saved his money. He was for the freedom of Ireland, and never called himself anything but an Irishman. Mr. Taggart was a man Louisville might be proud of, and his coming up from a poor boy to a position of affluence shows how the Irish can get along when they are given a chance and try.

In our next issue we will publish in full the Fourth of July oration of the Hon. Matt O'Doherty. This of itself will render our next issue one that should be much sought after and widely read. Mr. O'Doherty's reputation as one of the leading orators of the present day is too widely known to need further comment.

The Indiana Democrats put a strong labor plank in their platform. When the Kentucky Democrats meet they should do the same. They could do no better than to copy the Indiana plank.

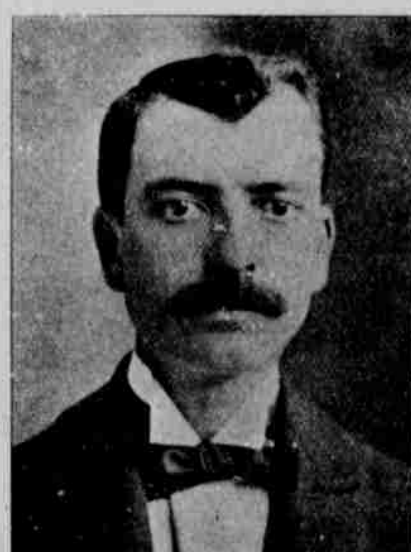
We would be ungrateful were we not to return thanks to the union printers for their interest in the appearance of this number.

## A PROGRESSIVE YOUNG IRISHMAN.

Mr. Michael J. Burke, with J. M. Robinson, Norton & Co.—His Rapid Advancement in Life.

Among the progressive young Irishmen in Louisville is Michael J. Burke, of the above firm. He was born in Louisville in 1866, and started to work when thirteen years old. Seventeen years ago he went with the J. M. Robinson Company, lately reorganized and now J. M. Robinson, Norton & Co., as stock boy at \$3.50 per week, and now controls the credits for that firm, doing a business of over \$4,000,000 per year. The house he represents sells goods in every State in the Union and as far north as the Dakotas.

Mr. Burke attended the third annual convention of the Credit Men at Detroit, Mich., June 22, 23 and 24. In an interview with a reporter for this paper Mr. Burke stated that the object of this association is the organization of individual credit men



MIKE BURKE.

throughout the United States for the purpose of rendering more uniformity and establishing firmly the basis upon which credits in every branch of commercial enterprise may be founded; for the reformation of laws unfavorable to honest debtors and creditors; the enactment of laws beneficial to commerce throughout the several States; the gathering and dissemination of data in relation to the subject of credits, and the provision of a fund for the protection of members against fraud and injustice.

He also stated that good work has already been done by the local associations in Texas, Missouri, Ohio and various other States. Nothing has been done, however, in Kentucky, but with a little more enthusiasm aroused no doubt much good can be accomplished.

The organization at Detroit represented 250 firms, with a working capital of \$600,000,000 and a yearly business of over two billion dollars.

Mr. James G. Cannon, President of the Fourth National Bank of New York City, was re-elected President, as was also Secretary F. R. Boockock. Mr. W. H. Taylor, of Kansas City, formerly a Kentuckian, was elected Vice President.

Mr. Burke's trip to Detroit was one of much pleasure. Many other prominent Irishmen attended the meeting, among whom were Mr. Daniel B. Murphy, of the firm of Burke, Fitz Simons, Hone & Co., of Rochester, N. Y., who was chairman of the individual dry goods meeting; Mr. J. J. Crowley, credit man for Burnham, Stoepel & Co., Detroit; Richard Hanlon, of St. Louis; Mr. Slattery, of Kansas City, and Mr. Pendergrast, of New York, who will most likely be a candidate for Congress this fall, with good chances for election.

We feel proud of Mr. Burke and would say to the youthful generation: "Go thou and do likewise."

FRANK McGRATH.

One of the Rising Young Men of the Ninth Ward—His New House.

There are few men as popular as the young gentleman whose name heads this article. For a number of years he has been one of the leading spirits in the Ninth ward, and in all political contests his friendship means certain success.

Mr. McGrath is also a very charitable man, and his kindly acts are innumerable. He is unostentatious in his

manners, and he lets his good deeds be known to but few.

Recently he erected a handsome business house at Seventh and York streets, which will result in great improvement to that locality. Would there were more men with the enterprise and spirit of Frank McGrath.

## A. O. H. CONVENTION.

CONTINUED FROM FOURTH PAGE.

"I thank you for the privilege of being present with you today, and hope that it will be my good fortune to meet every one of you, personally, during this week."

The Bishop next introduced P. J. O'Connor, of Savannah, Ga., National President of the American wing of the order. In presenting Mr. O'Connor the Bishop said that he was a man who had the interest of the organization at heart for many years and who had left nothing undone to bring about the reunion of the order.

Mr. O'Connor, in reply to the address of welcome of the Bishop and Mayor, made a very eloquent address. "The cordial greeting extended us by his Lordship, Bishop McFaul, is highly appreciated," he said. "Through his earnest and patriotic efforts we are here to complete the unification of our people and receive his blessing. The city of Trenton is bristling with inspiring and historic memories, and the grand result achieved for Hibernianism therein will long be remembered. We are glad to be among our New Jersey brethren, composed of men of true manliness, high moral character, eminent ability, devotion to holy church, loyalty to American institutions and with love for the Emerald Isle. We will carry with us from the gates of this city the kindest remembrance of the efforts of the people to make this visit one of the sweet memories of our lives. We are proud of the A. O. H., which has for its object the making of its members better as to themselves, better as to their families and better citizens of their country. Our report shows that we have disbursed more than \$500,000 in charity. Our charity is co-extensive with the world itself."

After telling of the deeds of valor of Irishmen in the former wars in which this country took part, Mr. O'Connor said: "In the present conflict our people are nobly doing their part, and the most brilliant pages of history, when written, will be illumined by the brave deeds and valor of our people. And friends, there is one consolation I extract out of the present conflict, and that it is has wiped out the dividing lines that so long separated the North and South."

The National Convention of the A. O. H. adjourned sine die Friday night. The following national officers were elected:

John P. Keating, of Chicago, was chosen National President by a vote of 167 to 114 over Edward J. Slaterly, of Massachusetts; Jas. B. Dolan, of Syracuse, N. Y., was elected Vice President without opposition; James O'Sullivan, of Philadelphia, was re-elected National Secretary over James P. Bree, of Connecticut; P. T. Moran, of Washington, D. C., was elected National Secretary; and P. J. O'Connor, of Savannah, Ga., Edward J. Slattery, of South Farmingham, Mass., M. J. Burns, of Indianapolis, Patrick A. O'Neil, of Philadelphia, were elected National Directors. Boston was selected for holding the next National Convention in May, 1900.

In the resolution adopted the proposed Anglo-American alliance was condemned, as well as any alliance with European powers.

## IRISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY.

Mrs. J. Drewry makes an excellent Secretary.

President Mike Muldoon has been absent from a number of meetings lately because of absence from the city on business.

Thomas Keenan would make an excellent presiding officer for any lodge. He is an excellent parliamentarian.

There several matters of importance to come up at the next meeting, and all who are interested in the society should be present.